

Loop 303 (Interstate 10 to US 60) Public Hearing Overview



October 21, 2008 6-8 p.m. (presentation at 6:30 p.m.) Millennium High School - Cafeteria 14802 W. Wigwam Blvd., Goodyear

October 22, 2008 5:30-8 p.m. (presentation at 6:30 p.m.) Willow Canyon High School - Cafeteria 17901 W. Lundberg St., Surprise

ABOUT THE HEARING FORMAT

Meetings will be conducted in an open house format to provide an opportunity to view maps, boards and other materials with information about the recommended project. Project representatives will be available to discuss the recommended improvements and any associated impacts. A presentation with an overview of the recommended project will begin at 6:30 p.m. at each hearing. Following the presentation, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) will provide an opportunity for the public to speak in front of the audience to provide comments for the project record. Comments may also be submitted at the hearings on the blue comment forms or directly to a court reporter. Court reporters will be present to document the proceedings and public comments.

ABOUT THE RECOMMENDED PROJECT

The proposed Loop 303 project is included in the Maricopa Association of Governments' Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for Maricopa County. Local funding for improvements in the RTP was approved in 2004 by voters in Maricopa County through Proposition 400, which renewed the half-cent sales tax through 2025 for regional transportation projects.

Improvements to the transportation system in the Loop 303 study area are needed to accommodate existing and projected local, regional and interstate travel demand. Recommended improvements to the segment of Loop 303 from I-10 to US 60 include:

- Widening the roadway to 10 lanes (four general-purpose and one high-occupancy vehicle lane in each direction) in its ultimate configuration;
- · Constructing drainage improvements;
- Building major interchanges to connect Loop 303 with I-10 and the proposed Northern Parkway;
- · Constructing 14 traffic interchanges along Loop 303 at major cross-streets, including Grand Avenue;
- Implementing full access control.

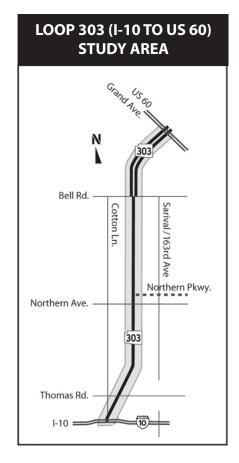
The RTP allocates funding in Phase II (2011-2015) to construct this segment of Loop 303 as a six-lane freeway.

PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARINGS

ADOT, in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), is hosting public hearings to give residents and others an opportunity to provide input on the recommended expansion of the Loop 303 between I-10 and US 60 (Grand Avenue), initially as a six-lane freeway with an ultimate possible configuration of 10 lanes. The purpose of the public hearings is to provide information about the recommended alternative and its potential environmental impacts and to receive public comments on the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Draft Design Concept Report (DCR).

WHAT TYPE OF COMMENTS IS ADOT SEEKING?

ADOT is seeking substantive comments on the Draft EA and the Draft DCR that relate to the recommended design, identified environmental impacts and mitigation measures, right of way acquisition or other items that should be considered in the final decision whether to proceed with the project as recommended in the Draft EA and Draft DCR.





HOW TO COMMENT

To be included in the project record, comments on the Draft EA and Draft DCR must be received by November 7, 2008. All comments submitted for the project record will be included and addressed in the Final Environmental Assessment. Commenters will not receive a response directly from ADOT to their comment or question, unless specifically requested to do so and contact information is provided.

Comments for the public record may be submitted to ADOT through one of the following methods:

- 1. At the public hearings through the formal comment process (described below).
- 2. Via e-mail to: ProjectUpdate@Lewin-Associates.com
- 3. Via fax to: (480) 890-0013
- 4. Via mail to:

Brock Barnhart

ADOT Northwest Community Outreach Team

1146 North Mesa Drive #102-298

Mesa, AZ 85201

Comments for the project record will be accepted at the meetings through one of the following methods:

- 1. Fill out a yellow speaker request card to speak in front of the audience following the presentation. Comments will be limited to one minute to allow ample opportunity for all wishing to speak.
- 2. Provide comments to the court reporter at today's hearing.
- 3. Fill out a blue comment card and return it to a staff member at today's hearing.

All comments must include the full name of the commenter to be included in the project record. Providing an address and other information is optional. Providing your contact information is voluntary. Under state law, any identifying information provided will become part of the public record and, as such, must be released to any individual upon request.

Copies of the Loop 303, I-10 to US 60, Draft EA and Draft DCR are available for public review at www.adotenvironmental.com and at locations throughout the West Valley through the end of the comment period on November 7, 2008. A list of repository locations is in the box to the right.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The recommended Loop 303 improvement project between I-10 and US 60 is currently in the study phase to evaluate the recommended design and potential environmental impacts. While the project has been identified in the Regional Transportation Plan for construction in Phase II (2011-2015), federal environmental clearance of the project is required before ADOT can proceed with final design plans for the freeway or purchase right of way.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Following the public comment period, ADOT will compile and address all comments received and include them in the Final Environmental Assessment (EA). ADOT and FHWA will review the substantive comments on the recommended design and mitigation measures to determine if any modifications are needed. The Final EA document will then be sent to FHWA for final review and approval. After review of the document, FHWA will make a decision whether to issue a Finding of No Significant Impacts (FONSI), which would allow the project to move forward to the final design phase, or determine that more environmental study is necessary. The FONSI would be published in the Federal Register and on the Environmental Planning section of ADOT's Web site at www.adotenvironmental.com.

CONTACT US

For more information about the hearings or recommended improvements to Loop 303, call (480) 890-3055 or e-mail ProjectUpdate@Lewin-Associates.com. For additional technical information about the project, contact Steve Beasley, project manager, at (602) 712-7645.

MORE INFORMATION, JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

To sign up for our mailing list to receive meeting notices, construction alerts and news about Loop 303 projects between I-10 and I-17, or for maps and general information about other planned Loop 303 projects, visit the Loop 303 section of our Web site at www.valleyfreeways.com.

REPOSITORY LOCATIONS

Buckeye Public Library

310 N. 6th St. Buckeye, Ariz.

City of El Mirage – City Hall

12145 NW Grand Ave. El Mirage, Ariz.

City of Glendale - City Hall

5850 W. Glendale Ave. Glendale, Ariz.

City of Goodyear - City Hall

190 N. Litchfield Rd. Goodyear, Ariz.

Litchfield Park Library

101 W. Wigwam Blvd. Litchfield Park, Ariz.

Luke Air Force Base

Community Initiatives Team 56FW/CVE 14185 W. Falcon St. Luke AFB, Ariz. **Authorized Air Force personnel only

Northwest Regional Library

16089 N. Bullard Ave. Surprise, Ariz.

R.H. Johnson Library

13801 W. Meeker Blvd. Sun City West, Ariz.

Sun City Grand

Community Association 19726 N. Remington Dr. Surprise, Ariz.

City of Surprise – City Hall

12425 W. Bell Rd. Surprise, Ariz.

Verrado Assembly Center

21209 W. Main St. Buckeye, Ariz.

Vistancia Homeowners Association

29701 N. Sunrise Point Peoria, Ariz.

Willow Canyon High School

Administration Office 17901 W. Lundberg Street Surprise, Ariz.